

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:  
specifying a particular tone;  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message;  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original tone is  
said particular tone; and  
10 automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to  
change said original tone to said particular tone in response to a determination that said  
original tone is not said particular tone.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
parsing said message into a plurality of elements; and  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message  
by determining a tone of each of said plurality of elements.
- 20 3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of specifying a size  
of each of said plurality of elements.
4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of parsing said  
message into a plurality of words, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements  
is a word.

5. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of parsing said message into a plurality of sentences, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a sentence.

5 6. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of parsing said message into a plurality of paragraphs, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a paragraph.

10 7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically modifying said message by adding words to said message.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically modifying said message by deleting words from said message.

15 9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically modifying said message by changing punctuation in said message.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically modifying said message by changing a font of said message.

20 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying a formal tone.

25 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying an informal tone.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying an authoritative tone.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying a happy tone.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying an angry tone.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of parsing said message into a plurality of elements, wherein one of said plurality of elements is an entire body of said message.

17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
identifying a recipient of said message;  
determining a tone of a last message sent to said recipient; and  
utilizing said tone of said last message as said particular tone.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
generating said message as a reply to a sender's message;  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, a tone of said sender's message; and  
utilizing said tone of said sender's message as said particular tone.

19. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
specifying a particular type of tone;

determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original type of tone of a message;

determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original type of tone is said particular type of tone; and

5 automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said original type of tone to said particular type of tone in response to a determination that said original type of tone is not said particular type of tone.

20. A method in a data processing system, said method comprising the steps of:  
10 specifying a particular tone including a particular degree of said tone;  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message including a degree of said original tone;

determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original tone is said particular tone;

15 automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said original tone to said particular tone including said degree of said tone in response to a determination that said original tone is not said particular tone;

in response to a determination that said original tone is said particular tone,  
determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said degree of said original  
20 tone is said particular degree of said specified tone, and

automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said degree of said original tone to said degree of said particular tone in response to a determination that said degree of said original tone is not said particular degree of said particular tone.

21. A computer program product in a data processing system, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for specifying a particular tone;

5 instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message;

instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original tone is said particular tone; and

10 instruction means for automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said original tone to said particular tone in response to a determination that said original tone is not said particular tone.

22. The product according to claim 21, further comprising:

instruction means for parsing said message into a plurality of elements; and

15 instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message by determining a tone of each of said plurality of elements.

23. The product according to claim 22, further comprising instruction means for specifying a size of each of said plurality of elements.

20 24. The product according to claim 23, further comprising instruction means for parsing said message into a plurality of words, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a word.

25 25. The product according to claim 23, further comprising instruction means for parsing said message into a plurality of sentences, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a sentence.

26. The product according to claim 23, further comprising instruction means for parsing said message into a plurality of paragraphs, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a paragraph.

5 27. The product according to claim 21, further comprising instruction means for automatically modifying said message by adding words to said message.

28. The product according to claim 21, further comprising instruction means for automatically modifying said message by deleting words from said message.

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29. The product according to claim 21, further comprising instruction means for automatically modifying said message by changing punctuation in said message.

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30. The product according to claim 21, further comprising instruction means for automatically modifying said message by changing a font of said message.

31. The product according to claim 21, wherein said instruction means for specifying a particular tone further comprises instruction means for specifying a formal tone.

20 32. The product according to claim 21, wherein said instruction means for specifying a particular tone further comprises instruction means for specifying an informal tone.

33. The product according to claim 21, wherein said instruction means for specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying an authoritative tone.

34. The product according to claim 21, wherein said instruction means for specifying a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying a happy tone.

35. The product according to claim 21, wherein said instruction means for specifying  
5 a particular tone further comprises the step of specifying an angry tone.

36. The product according to claim 21, further comprising instruction means for parsing said message into a plurality of elements, wherein one of said plurality of elements is an entire body of said message.

10 37. The product according to claim 21, further comprising:  
instruction means for identifying a recipient of said message;  
instruction means for determining a tone of a last message sent to said recipient;  
and  
15 instruction means for utilizing said tone of said last message as said particular tone.

38. The product according to claim 21, further comprising:  
instruction means for generating said message as a reply to a sender's message;  
20 instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, a tone of said sender's message; and  
instruction means for utilizing said tone of said sender's message as said particular tone.

25 39. The product according to claim 21, further comprising:  
instruction means for specifying a particular type of tone;

instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original type of tone of a message;

instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original type of tone is said particular type of tone; and

5 instruction means for automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said original type of tone to said particular type of tone in response to a determination that said original type of tone is not said particular type of tone.

10 40. A computer program product in a data processing system, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for specifying a particular tone including a particular degree of said tone;

15 instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, an original tone of a message including a degree of said original tone;

instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said original tone is said particular tone;

20 instruction means for automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said original tone to said particular tone including said degree of said tone in response to a determination that said original tone is not said particular tone;

in response to a determination that said original tone is said particular tone, instruction means for determining, utilizing said data processing system, whether said degree of said original tone is said particular degree of said specified tone, and



instruction means for automatically modifying, utilizing said data processing system, said message to change said degree of said original tone to said degree of said particular tone in response to a determination that said degree of said original tone is not said particular degree of said particular tone.

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41. A data processing system comprising:  
a particular tone being specified;  
said data processing system including a CPU executing code for determining an original tone of a message;

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said CPU executing code for determining whether said original tone is said particular tone; and

said data processing system for automatically modifying said message to change said original tone to said particular tone in response to a determination that said original tone is not said particular tone.

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42. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
said message being parsed into a plurality of elements; and  
said CPU executing code for determining an original tone of a message by determining a tone of each of said plurality of elements.

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43. The system according to claim 42, further comprising a size of each of said plurality of elements being specified.

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44. The system according to claim 43, further comprising said message being parsed into a plurality of words, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a word.

45. The system according to claim 43, further comprising said message being parsed into a plurality of sentences, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a sentence.

5 46. The system according to claim 43, further comprising said message being parsed into a plurality of paragraphs, wherein said size of each of said plurality of elements is a paragraph.

10 47. The system according to claim 41, further comprising said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message by adding words to said message.

48. The system according to claim 41, further comprising said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message by deleting words from said message.

15 49. The system according to claim 41, further comprising said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message by changing punctuation in said message.

20 50. The system according to claim 41, further comprising said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message by changing a font of said message.

51. The system according to claim 41, wherein said specified particular tone is a formal tone.

25 52. The system according to claim 41, wherein said specified particular tone is an informal tone.

53. The system according to claim 41, wherein said specified particular tone is an authoritative tone.

54. The system according to claim 41, wherein said specified particular tone is a  
5 happy tone.

55. The system according to claim 41, wherein said specified particular tone is an angry tone.

10 56. The system according to claim 41, further comprising said message being parsed into a plurality of elements, wherein one of said plurality of elements is an entire body of said message.

57. The system according to claim 41, further comprising:  
15 a recipient of said message being identified;  
said CPU executing code for determining a tone of a last message sent to said recipient; and  
said tone of said last message being utilized as said particular tone.

20 58. The system according to claim 41, further comprising:  
said message being generated as a reply to a sender's message;  
said CPU executing code for determining a tone of said sender's message; and  
said tone of said sender's message being utilized as said particular tone.

25 59. The system according to claim 41, further comprising:  
a particular type of tone being specified;

said CPU executing code for determining an original type of tone of a message;  
said CPU executing code for determining whether said original type of tone is said particular type of tone; and  
said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message to change said original type of tone to said particular type of tone in response to a determination that said original type of tone is not said particular type of tone.

60. A data processing system comprising:

a particular tone including a particular degree of said tone being specified;  
said data processing system including a CPU executing code for determining an original tone of a message including a degree of said original tone;  
said CPU executing code for determining whether said original tone is said particular tone;

said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message to change said original tone to said particular tone including said degree of said tone in response to a determination that said original tone is not said particular tone;

in response to a determination that said original tone is said particular tone, said CPU executing code for determining whether said degree of said original tone is said particular degree of said specified tone, and

said CPU executing code for automatically modifying said message to change said degree of said original tone to said degree of said particular tone in response to a determination that said degree of said original tone is not said particular degree of said particular tone.